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| 10/616,113 | 07/09/2003 | Stephan Schmidt | P2002,0564 | 2190 |
| 24131 | 7590 | 09/21/2005 | EXAMINER | |
| LERNER AND GREENBERG, PA P O BOX 2480 HOLLYWOOD, FL 33022-2480 | | | NGO, HUNG V | |
| | | | ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
| | | | 2831 | |

DATE MAILED: 09/21/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/616,113

Applicant(s)

SCHMIDT ET AL.

Examiner

Hung V. Ngo

Art Unit

2831

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 September 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 07-09-03
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities:

Page 14, line 12, "housing parts 9 and 10" are confusing. The examiner suggests
– housing parts 1 and 2--.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-5, 7, 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Stoyko (US 5,532,427).

Stoyko discloses a housing, comprising: at least first and second housing parts (1, 9) detachably connected to one another at a transition, said first and second housing parts each having end surfaces (4) fitting with one another to spread electrical contact on a largest possible surface area therebetween, each of said end surfaces of said first and second housing parts having at least one corresponding bend (Figs 4, 5).

Re claim 2, wherein said first and second housing parts define an air gap therebetween, said air gap (16) being sufficiently small to allow electrical contact to occur between said first and second housing parts over a substantial majority of said surface area

Re Claim 3, wherein said end surfaces are at a right angle to said first and second housing parts (Fig 5).

Re Claim 4, wherein said at least one bend is a right angle (Fig 5).

Re Claim 5, wherein said end surfaces are form-locking and have profiles with a number of sides at which electrically conductive contact occurs (Fig 5).

Re Claim 7, wherein at least one of said first and second housing parts is of sheet metal (col. 2, lines 34-39)(Fig 4).

Re Claim 19, a housing comprising: at least first and second housing parts (1, 9) detachably connected to one another at a transition, said first and second housing parts each having end surfaces (4) fitting with one another to spread electrical contact on substantially all of a surface area therebetween said end surfaces, each of said end surfaces of said first and second housing parts having at least one corresponding bend, said end surfaces being form-locking and having profiles with at least two sides at which electrically conductive contact occurs (Figs 4, 5).

Claims 1-7, 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kaiserswerth et al (US 3,885,084)

Kaiserswerth et al disclose a housing, comprising: at least first and second housing parts (1, 2) detachably connected to one another at a transition, said first and second housing parts each having end surfaces (1', 2') fitting with one another to spread electrical contact on a largest possible surface area therebetween, each of said end surfaces of said first and second housing parts having at least one corresponding bend (Fig 1).

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Re claim 2, wherein said first and second housing parts define an air gap (15) therebetween, said air gap being sufficiently small to allow electrical contact to occur between said first and second housing parts over a substantial majority of said surface area

Re Claim 3, wherein said end surfaces are at a right angle to said first and second housing parts (Fig 1).

Re Claim 4, wherein said at least one bend is a right angle (Fig 1).

Re Claim 5, wherein said end surfaces are form-locking and have profiles with a number of sides at which electrically conductive contact occurs (Fig 4)

Re claim 6, wherein said first and second housing parts define an air gap (15) therebetween and said air gap is filled with a formable and electrically conductive seal (3).

Re Claim 7, wherein at least one of said first and second housing parts is of sheet metal (cross hatch)(Fig 1).

Re Claim 19, a housing comprising: at least first and second housing parts (1, 2) detachably connected to one another at a transition, said first and second housing parts each having end surfaces (1', 2') fitting with one another to spread electrical contact on substantially all of a surface area therebetween said end surfaces, each of said end surfaces of said first and second housing parts having at least one corresponding bend, said end surfaces being form-locking and having profiles with at least two sides at which electrically conductive contact occurs (Fig 1).

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Claims 1-5, 7-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by McMiller et al (US 6,194,653)

McMiller et al disclose a housing, comprising: at least first and second housing parts (102, 100) detachably connected to one another at a transition, said first and second housing parts each having end surfaces (122, 112) fitting with one another to spread electrical contact on a largest possible surface area therebetween, each of said end surfaces of said first and second housing parts having at least one corresponding bend (Fig 1).

Re claim 2, wherein said first and second housing parts define an air gap (inherent) therebetween, said air gap being sufficiently small to allow electrical contact to occur between said first and second housing parts over a substantial majority of said surface area

Re Claim 3, wherein said end surfaces are at a right angle to said first and second housing parts (Fig 1).

Re Claim 4, wherein said at least one bend is a right angle (Fig 1).

Re Claim 5, wherein said end surfaces are form-locking and have profiles with a number of sides at which electrically conductive contact occurs (Fig 1)

Re Claim 7, wherein at least one of said first and second housing parts is of sheet metal (abstract)(Fig 1).

Re Claim 8, wherein: said first and second housing parts have end surfaces; and one of said end surfaces of at least one of said first and second housing parts has

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contact elements (208) in conductive contact with another of said end surfaces of a respective other one of said first and second housing parts.

Re Claim 9, wherein said contact elements are disposed along said end surface at regular intervals (Fig 3).

Re Claim 10, wherein said one of said first and second housing parts having said contact elements is of sheet metal (abstract).

Re Claim 11, wherein at least one of said contact elements is a link plate formed from said sheet metal (abstract)(Fig 3).

Re Claim 12, wherein said contact elements each are link plates formed from said sheet metal (abstract)(Fig 3)..

Re Claim 13, wherein said at least one contact element has a free end with a contact-forming embossing (210) in a direction of said other one of said first and second housing parts not having said contact elements.

Re Claim 14, wherein at least one of said contact elements is resilient (col. 2, lines 10-15).

Re Claim 15, wherein: said one of said first and second housing parts having said contact elements has a given thickness; and said contact elements each have said given thickness (Fig 3).

Re Claim 16, wherein: said contact elements each have free ends with contact-forming embossings (210); said contact elements lie in a given plane with said one of said first and second housing parts having said contact elements; and

said embossings protrude beyond said given plane in a direction of said other one of said first and second housing parts not having said contact elements (Fig 3).

Re Claim 17, wherein said contact elements are disposed beyond said bend and follow a form of said bend (Fig 3).

Re Claim 18, wherein: said one of said first and second housing parts having said contact elements has an extent from a given portion through said at least one bend to an end; and said contact elements are disposed between said at least one bend and said end and follow a form of said at least one bend (Fig 1).

Re Claim 19, a housing comprising: at least first and second housing parts (102, 100) detachably connected to one another at a transition, said first and second housing parts each having end surfaces (122, 112) fitting with one another to spread electrical contact on substantially all of a surface area therebetween said end surfaces, each of said end surfaces of said first and second housing parts having at least one corresponding bend, said end surfaces being form-locking and having profiles with at least two sides at which electrically conductive contact occurs (Fig 1).

Re Claim 20 (original), wherein: said first and second housing parts have end surfaces; and one of said end surfaces of at least one of said first and second housing parts has contact elements (208) in conductive contact with another of said end surfaces of a respective other one of said first and second housing parts.

Re Claim 21, wherein: said one of said first and second housing parts having said contact elements has a given thickness; and said contact elements each have said given thickness (Fig 3).

Re Claim 22, wherein:said contact elements each have free ends with contact-forming embossings (210); said contact elements lie in a given plane with said one of said first and second housing parts having said contact elements; and said embossings protrude beyond said given plane in a direction of said other one of said first and second housing parts not having said contact elements.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hung V. Ngo whose telephone number is (571) 272-1979. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Thursday 8:30-6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Dean A. Reichard can be reached on (571) 272-2800 EXT 31. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

HVN
09-10-05

Hung V Ngo

**HUNG V. NGO
PRIMARY EXAMINER**